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Alaska Department of Fish & Game

NEWS

November 9, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOOSE SEASON CLOSURE

at

Nunatak Bench in Unit 5A

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Douglas is announcing a closure to the registration permit moose hunt (RM059) in that portion of unit 5A that lies south of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fiords, and east of the east side of the East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (locally referred to as Nunatak Bench).

Department personnel conducted an aerial survey of this area on November 7, 2006, and counted only 11 moose. This is the second consecutive year of low moose survey counts (14 in 2005), compared to an average annual moose count of 34 animals during 1994-2003. Given the low number of moose seen during the most recent survey, we consider any harvest to be detrimental to this moose population. Therefore, the moose season at Nunatak Bench under registration permit RM059 will not open during the 2006 regulatory year, (fall 2006/spring2007).

Hunters are reminded that this closure does not affect the moose hunts in the remainder of Unit 5A (RM061) or 5B (RM062).

If you have any questions about this News Release, please call Neil Barten at the Douglas ADF&G office, @ 465-4267.

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